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Information Alert

From the National Agricultural Library



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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André Named NAL Director

Beltsville, MD — Pamela Q.J. André has been named Director of the National Agricultural Library (NAL), replacing Joseph H. Howard who retired on February 3, 1994.

André has served in various library management positions with the federal government over a 28-year career. She had been acting NAL director since Howard's retirement.

From 1984 until her designation as acting NAL director, André had been NAL's Associate Director for Automation. In this position, she guided NAL's program to apply electronic technology to library operations. In particular, she was instrumental in the success of the National Agricultural Text Digitizing Program in which selected portions of the NAL collection were placed on compact discs and distributed to land-grant university libraries nationwide. She also led the library's efforts to make NAL services and products available on the Internet.

"As the acting director and an NAL associate director, Pam has admirably demonstrated her leadership abilities," said Dean Plowman, USDA's Acting Assistant Secretary, Science and Education. "She has been instrumental in steering the library in the direction of becoming electronically accessible, worldwide. We are confident that she will continue this exemplary service as the NAL director."

Prior to joining NAL, André held a variety of positions with the Library of Congress (LC). As a computer systems analyst, she worked on developing LC's bibliographic computer system. She was later the Assistant Chief of the MARC Editorial Division. In 1982, she was named to the management team for the LC Optical Disk Pilot Project.

She has served on the editorial boards of several library-related publications and is a member of the American

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Library Association and International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists.

André has a master's degree in library science from the University of Maryland. Her articles on library automation have appeared in numerous publications, and she is a popular speaker on the uses of electronic technologies in libraries.

The National Agricultural Library is the largest agricultural library in the world, with over 2.1 million volumes and receiving 22,000 periodicals annually. It is one of three national libraries of the United States, with the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine.

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PRESS RELEASE — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Aquaculture Resource Guide Available from NAL

Beltsville, MD — A comprehensive *Resource Guide to Aquaculture Information* is available from the Aquaculture Information Center (AIC) of the National Agricultural Library (NAL).

The guide lists over 500 resources for information on all aspects of aquaculture. Included with the listing are addresses, telephone numbers and, where available, e-mail addresses.

"This guide is for use by aquaculturalists, researchers, students, educators, industry members and others seeking initial contact points for information on the growing industry of aquaculture," said AIC acting coordinator Eileen McVey.

McVey said the guide can be a starting point for finding answers to just about all aquaculture questions.

"Interest in aquaculture in the U.S. and the world is rapidly spreading," McVey said, "and with it the demand for information. This guide is probably the best source available today for finding that information."

The guide is divided into 11 sections and includes academic libraries, Federal and state libraries, aquaculture journals and newsletters, electronic and online resources, trade and professional associations, Extension Service contacts, State Aquaculture Coordinators, Federal agencies—regional and national, Regional Aquaculture Centers and equipment and supply sources.

Available free of charge, the guide was produced by the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture, Aquaculture Information and Technology Transfer Task Force. The task force is comprised of representatives from Federal

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agencies, academia and private industry and has a mission to provide leadership and guidance in the collection and dissemination of aquacultural information in the United States. Funding for the guide was provided by the USDA Extension Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Commerce's National Coastal Resources and Development Institute and National Sea Grant College Program. NAL's Aquaculture Information Center coordinated the project.

To obtain a copy of the guide, send a self-addressed label with the request to:

Aquaculture Information Center
National Agricultural Library, USDA
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

Telephone: (301) 504-5558
TDD/TTY: (301) 504-6856
FAX: (301) 504-6409
Internet: aic@nalusda.gov

AIC is one of 11 information centers established by NAL to keep abreast of current information on issues of critical importance to U.S. agriculture. Other subjects covered include agricultural trade, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, biotechnology, food and nutrition, plant genome, rural development/health, technology transfer, water quality and youth development.

NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States with the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine. It is the largest agricultural library in the world.

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NAL Updates Rural Studies Guides

Beltsville, MD – Two popular reference guides on the developing field of rural studies have been updated and are available from the Rural Information Center (RIC) of the National Agricultural Library (NAL).

“A Rural Studies Bibliography” is a listing of 215 books and articles related to all aspects of rural studies. “The Directory of Rural Studies Scholars and Educators” lists U.S. scholars and educators in a range of disciplines who are involved in rural-issues teaching or research.

According to Pat John, RIC coordinator, “A Rural Studies Bibliography” was developed to “serve as a beginning point for graduate students and professionals interested in pursuing topics of rural studies. It is meant to guide interested individuals to research undertaken by the range of disciplines that address rural studies topics.”

“The Directory of Rural Studies Scholars and Educators” can serve as an aid in facilitating communications between those involved in rural studies, John said.

The National Rural Studies Committee, a privately funded group located at Oregon State University, assisted RIC in developing both guides.

To obtain a copy of either or both publications, send a self-addressed label with the request to:

Rural Information Center, Room 304
National Agricultural Library, USDA
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

Telephone: (301) 504-5372
TDD/TTY: (301) 504-6856
FAX: (301) 504-5181
Internet: ric@nalusda.gov

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RIC is one of 11 information centers established by NAL to gather information and provide services on issues of critical importance to the agricultural community. In addition to rural development and health, subjects covered include: agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, biotechnology, food and nutrition, plant genome, technology transfer, water quality, and youth development.

NAL, with the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, is one of three national libraries of the United States. It is the largest agricultural library in the world.

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NAL Releases New Bibliography on Biotechnology and Sustainable Agriculture

Beltsville, MD – Biotechnology's use in the growing field of sustainable agriculture is the subject covered in articles listed in a new bibliography from the National Agricultural Library (NAL).

Biotechnology and Sustainable Agriculture: A Bibliography (SRB 94-13) lists 127 articles by recognized authorities on the future of biotechnology in sustainable agriculture. The bibliography was produced jointly by NAL's Biotechnology Information Center (BIC) and Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC).

"Biotechnology has the potential to provide farmers with alternatives to chemicals in controlling pests and weeds," said Dr. Ray Dobert, BIC coordinator. "However, one concern that has been voiced regarding biotechnology is the possibility that it would lead to greater farmer dependence on new technology. The debate becomes: are these two fields compatible with each other?"

According to AFSIC Coordinator Jane Gates, the new NAL bibliography is just the beginning in trying to resolve that question.

"While not an exhaustive search of the literature on the subject, the items listed in the bibliography can serve as a foundation on which to build as the dialogue continues in the future," Gates said.

The literature listed covers the impact of biotechnology on alternative pest control methods, and the cultural and sociological changes that biotechnology could bring to agriculture. Articles are from the NAL AGRICOLA bibliographic database and are available in the NAL collection.

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To obtain a copy of the bibliography, send a self-addressed label with the request to either BIC or AFSIC, care of:

National Agricultural Library, USDA
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

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NAL Annual Report for 1993 Available

Beltsville, MD – Copies of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) *Annual Report for 1993* are still available. The 58-page report highlights programs and activities of the library in the areas of collections, initiatives, cooperation and joint projects, services, and technology, and provides related statistical data in tables and graphs.

Copies of the reports for 1989, 1990, 1991, and 1992 are also still available.

To obtain a copy of the current or previous reports, send a request with a self-addressed label to:

Shirley Evans
Public Affairs, Room 204
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351

The National Agricultural Library is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is the largest agricultural library in the world, containing over 2.1 million volumes and receiving 26,000 current periodical titles from throughout the world. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

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Foodborne Illness Education Information Center Set Up at NAL

Beltsville, MD – Information on foodborne illness education is available from a new information service at the National Agricultural Library (NAL).

Part of NAL's Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC), the new service, called the USDA/FDA Foodborne Illness Education Information Center, is in business for educators, trainers and organizations developing education and training materials for food workers and consumers.

The center is a joint program of the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

According to Cindy Roberts, information specialist with the new information center, USDA and FDA established the center as part of a national campaign to reduce the risk of foodborne illness and to increase knowledge of food-related risks at all stages of food handling and preparation, from producers to consumers.

"The center's primary function is the development and maintenance of an educational database," Roberts said. "The database is a compilation of consumer and food worker education materials developed by universities, private companies and government agencies."

Materials listed in the database include computer software, audiovisuals, posters, games, and teaching guides for elementary and secondary school curricula. Also included are training materials for managers and workers at retail food markets and food service institutions.

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Roberts said that reports derived from the database, primarily lists of the contents, are free and available by modem via the Internet from the FNIC gopher. To access the database via gopher, telnet to a favorite gopher, choose "All other gophers," then "Gopher servers in the USA," then "Maryland," then "Food and Nutrition Information Center, USDA." From the menu displayed look under "USDA/FDA Foodborne Illness Education Information Center."

The center can also be accessed through NAL's electronic bulletin board ALF.

Roberts said that floppy disk copies of the database are available from the center.

Additional information on the database and the center are available by contacting Roberts at:

USDA/FDA Foodborne Illness Education Information Center
c/o Food and Nutrition Information Center
National Agricultural Library, Room 304
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

Telephone: (301) 504-5719
TDD/TTY: (301) 504-6856
Fax (301) 504-6409
Internet address: croberts@nalusda.gov

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NAL Aids Egypt in Establishing Agricultural Library

Beltsville, MD – World relations are getting a boost from international collaboration in a rather unusual arena; library science. Specifically, agricultural library science.

The National Agricultural Library (NAL) of the United States is assisting the Government of Egypt in establishing an Egyptian National Agricultural Library (ENAL) in Cairo.

Since 1987, NAL has been providing Egypt with technical assistance and staff training as the Egyptian Government moves ahead in developing ENAL.

“Over the years we have hosted a number of Egyptian librarians and agricultural specialists from the ENAL staff,” said NAL Acting Director Pamela André. “They come to NAL to observe our operations, discuss and study library management techniques with our managers, and review our collection so they can decide on the agricultural materials to acquire for their own library.”

André said that the Egyptians consider NAL the best agricultural library in the world, and “they want to learn from the best.”

NAL staff have also gone to Egypt to assist. “With funding from the Agency for International Development and the International Cooperation and Development section of USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service, NAL staff have travelled to Cairo a number of times since 1990,” André said. “We went to meet with members of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture and the staff they have selected for their agricultural library. Together we discussed and laid out the plans for establishing a major research library. NAL has provided guidance from the very beginning.”

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The beginning was in 1987 when a two-person contingent from the "Library and Information Systems Working Group" of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture visited NAL for two days of meetings. While at the library, they were given demonstrations of NAL library technology and began the process of gathering information to use in developing an Egyptian National Agricultural Library.

Since then, André said there have been a steady stream of Egyptian librarians, agriculture specialists and managers to NAL learning "as much as they can about what is required to establish and manage a large research library. They have been eager and willing students."

According to André the instruction the Egyptians have received has been as varied as the librarian profession has become.

"We've given them training in providing reference services to their clients, in document delivery, microcomputer use, cataloging, in producing CD-ROMs (compact disks) of agricultural materials and in selecting and acquiring a basic collection," she said.

An intensive review of NAL's collection gave the Egyptians the basis for their own collection when they identified 1,000 agricultural journals and 8,000 monographs to be acquired for ENAL.

Other training included instruction in developing statistics, scheduling library staff, and using NAL's AGRICOLA bibliographic database.

One group travelled to Blacksburg, Virginia, to the headquarters of a library services company, for instruction on computer hardware and software for libraries. They also discussed with the company's staff installing an integrated library system similar to one NAL installed to manage its own collection of over 2 million volumes.

NAL arranged for another group of Egyptian visitors to travel to the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore in Princess Anne County, Maryland, to view the operations of that university's Frederick Douglas Library and meet with that library's staff.

There has also been some time for a little sightseeing.

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"For one of our groups we planned a side trip to the seaside resort of Ocean City, Maryland," André said, "and while there, introduced our Egyptian friends to the joys of Maryland crabcakes at a seafood restaurant in the area."

And what are the Egyptians' impressions of NAL and the area?

"Nearly all are amazed at the volume and scope of NAL's operations and collection," André said. "And most comment on the beauty of the Maryland countryside. They are particularly impressed with the large number of trees and forests in the state. This is understandable, considering Egypt's arid, desert environment."

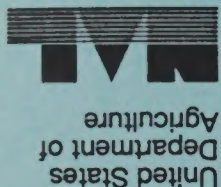
NAL will be hosting more groups in the next several months. André said the Egyptians plan to have a staff of about 80 people in their library. To date, NAL has had 25 of those at the library for training.

"This has been a remarkable experience for both NAL and the Egyptians," André said. "And through it we have developed bonds that will last far into the future. Both libraries, and both countries, stand to benefit from the exchange of agricultural and library knowledge."

The Egyptian Government is planning to open their National Agricultural Library in 1995.

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